

MEMBERS PRESENT

(attending by Webinar)

Mr. Robert B. Williams* <i>HFS</i>	Dr. Robert Bloom <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i>	Dr. Kathy Briseno <i>Legislative Designee</i>
Mr. Matt George <i>Legislative Designee</i>	Dr. Seth Harkins <i>Legislative Designee</i>	Ms. Maureen Haugh-Stover Ms. Kathy Ward <i>DHS/DDD</i>
Ms. Carie Johnstone <i>Legislative Designee</i>	Mr. Merlin Lehman <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i>	Ms. Alicia Ozier <i>DCFS</i>
Ms. Michelle Scott-Terven Ms. Kimberly Pinckney <i>DHS/DRS</i>	Ms. Abbey Storey ISBE	Dr. Constance Y. Williams <i>DHS/DMH</i>
Mr. Neal Takiff <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i>	Dr. Andrew Beaty <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i>	Dr. Cesar Madrigal <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i>
Mr. Mark Smith DJJ	Dr. Robert Bloom <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i>	Ms. Judith Levitan <i>OAG</i>

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Julie Stremlau
DHS/DFCS

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Nancy Aguirre
Regional Coordinator

Ms. Kristin Gharst
Regional Coordinator

Ms. Juli Kartel
Regional Coordinator

Ms. Lynn Lowder Coffey
Operations Manager

Ms. Mindy Monti
Office Manager

Ms. Debbi Smith
Executive Director

Mr. Robert Watts
Regional Coordinator

LIAISONS PRESENT

None

GUESTS

Michelle Churchey-Mims
CHBA

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 am by Vice Chairperson Matt George.

We would like to welcome our new gubernatorial designee, Cesar Madrigal. He has been approved by Governor Pritzker to be our new board member: Cesar Madrigal is a PhD, LCSW, Therapist and owner of Madrigal Consulting and Counseling. Dr. Madrigal has been in the field of social work for over 35 years and has served in many capacities and environments with the focus on working with the behavioral health of those who are clinically significant. Areas of expertise include working with adults with mood disorders, depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, hoarding behaviors, sexual identity, and addictions. Dr. Madrigal has served in the capacity for many years as a community leader, university instructor, coordinator, and consultant. He has dedicated his life to help others discover their true being by helping strengthen his clients to live a life of purpose and meaning. Dr. Madrigal is very sensitive to the spiritual needs of his clients. Working with Dr. Madrigal, you will see how his gift of relationship and individual care makes such an impact in the lives of others.

II. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2021 AUTHORITY MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting with no revisions.

MOTION: *Dr. Seth Harkins moved and Dr. Constance Williams seconded that the minutes of the December 10, 2020 Authority meeting be approved. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Smith reviewed the new restraint and seclusion legislation which amends the School Code which makes changes concerning the adoption of rules by the State Board of Education governing time out and physical restraint in the public schools. Subject to appropriation, requires the State Board to create a grant program for school districts and special education cooperatives and charter schools to implement school-wide, culturally sensitive, and trauma-informed practices, positive behavioral interventions and supports, and restorative practices. The executive committee believes the legislation is in alignment with the CRSA recommendations.
- Ms. Smith sent an unintended consequences document, *regarding youth in detention being eligible to apply for the FSP*, and submitted it to HFS on 12/16 as per direction from the board at our December meeting.

On December 30 we received this communication from a provider regarding a CRSA involved youth:

"A few weeks ago, we spoke directly to a staff at EQ health and he informed us that FSP application can continue for the youth if he is in JDC. It would only be invalid if the youth was sentenced/convicted."

On 2/8, Ms. Smith received an email from HFS, Robert B Williams stating that HFS has not changed practice and hold to the rule 139 guidelines.

Ms. Lowder and Ms. Smith are watching JCAR for the upcoming rule change for rule 139 FAP so

CRSA can comment to advocate changing the rule back to the way it read in the old ICG rule 135.

- Ms. Smith reported that she is on a NB subcommittee to address Illinois's significant problem with a lack of licensed clinicians willing to work in community mental health centers and behavioral health clinics. These positions are underpaid, and the work is very stressful. Training paraprofessional staff to intervene with youth and their families using evidence-based methods would significantly strengthen and extend the current child mental health workforce. The committee's goal has been to recommend to HFS ways to enhance, expand, and improve the workforce of non-licensed mental health workers to become credentialed to more effectively intervene with children and families, with or at-risk for behavioral or emotional difficulties. The committee will present further findings to HFS on March 29th.
- Detained youth getting access to admission to psychiatric hospitals has been the focus of another committee that Director Smith coordinated at the request of Kane County providers. So far 8 detention centers have provided data from 2020. From these 8 facilities, a total of 138 youths were assessed for a psychiatric episode, 31 were reported as needing hospitalization and 21 were hospitalized. Again, this is combining all the data, with the exception of Champaign which did not report the disposition results of the assessment, they just reported the number that were hospitalized. Kane County providers agreed to host further meetings and set the agenda. The following board members in December, stated they would like to participate on a committee to address this issue : Mr. Mark Smith DJJ, Mr. Neal Takiff JD, Mr. Robert Williams HFS, Ms. Alicia Ozier DCFS, Ms. Carie Johnstone Legislative Designee, and Public participant Ms Michelle Churchy-Mims CBHA.
- Ms. Smith announced that Regional Coordinator, Ms. Julie Kartel, agreed to be the CRSA liaison to HFS. The liaison's goal will be to make monthly contact with HFS. HFS has many programs that uniquely affect much of the work CRSA does on behalf of families. It is important to stay abreast of the ongoing changes and programs that affect youth.
- Dr Bloom's letter to IDPH, Dr Ezike was sent December 21st for IDPH to prioritize teachers for the C19 vaccine.
- Ms Smith asked to move the revised combined time keeping policy which was provisionally approved in December to full board.
- The home-based/ remote employee's policy was discussed, to be emailed to the board members for first review at the full board meeting.

IV. OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORTED

TRAININGS:

Ms. Lynn Lowder working diligently with DOIT to work out the glitches for board members to complete their training through One Net. Our training period is February 1, 2021 through March 1, 2021 and that is when they'd like us to complete the training. Although legally we have until December 31, 2021.

The required trainings for board members are:

- Ethics Training Program for State Employees and Appointees (Annually)
- Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Training (Annually)
- Open Meetings Act (One time)

BUDGET UPDATE:

Ms. Lowder reached out to ISBE for an update on the possibility of a 5% reduction for FY 21 and a 10% reduction in FY 22. ISBE responded that they do not anticipate anything new prior to the Governor's Budget address which scheduled for February 17th.

APPOINTMENT UPDATE:

After the appointment of Cesar Madrigal, we have one Gubernatorial Appointee vacancy.

LEGISLATION:

The 102nd General Assembly has been sworn in and the new Speaker of the House is Representative Emanuel Chris Welch (D). The President of the Senate remained the same and is Senator Don Harmon (D). The House Appropriations-Elementary & Secondary Education Committee, which is where the CRSA budget resides, is chaired by Representative Will Davis and the Minority Spokesperson is Representative Thomas Bennett.

The House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee School Curriculum & Policies Committee, which is where two of our legislative designees come from, is chaired by Representative Michelle Mussman (Dr. Seth Harkins, designee) and the Minority Spokesperson is Representative Avery Bourne (Dr. Kathy Briseno, designee).

Senate Education Committee, which is where our other two legislative designees come from, was chaired by Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant but she has moved on to become the first woman to hold the office of Will County Executive. Senator Christopher Belt was appointed to take her place as Chairperson. Senator Belt is lifelong resident of the Metro East. He currently resides in Cahokia with his wife and two children. His current designee is Carie Johnstone. The Minority Spokesperson was Senator Chuck Weaver but he retired and Senator Sue Rezin was appointed to take his place. Senator Rezin is from Morris, IL where she resides with husband and four children. Her current designee is Matt George. Ms. Lowder will be reaching out to both of the Senators requesting the keep Ms. Johnstone and Mr. George as their designees.

We've created a new legislative watch list that we will provide to everyone once the filing deadlines are over. The filing deadline for the House is February 11th and February 19th for the Senate. Ms. Lowder stated that if there is a particular bill a board member would like us to follow, please email us. Both the House and Senate are allowing remote committee hearings. They have provided a link on how to submit written testimony for House and Senate Committees. Below are the directions:

- Go to: <https://www.ilga.gov/>
- Select "Submit testimony..." under either Senate or House
- The select "Please click here to view guidelines...."
- That will take you to the instructions page

Seclusion and Restraint Update: Senate Bill 2315 died. House Bill 219 sponsored by Representative Carroll is the new seclusion bill. There hasn't been a Senate sister bill filed as of Monday Ms. Lowder will keep looking.

V. OFFICE MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Mindy Monti requested board members to visit, like and share our Facebook page in order for CRSA to reach more families in need.

VI. CHANGING LIVES

CRSA regional coordinator by Nancy Aguirre reported on a resource barrier to service facing a CRSA involved family. There was no funding barrier described, only the availability of necessary resources to agencies to adequately and timely support a plan of care. Board members offered afterwards to assist Ms. Aguirre with this case.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

The Second Reading on the changes to CRSA timekeeping procedure was tabled until the April meeting.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Gary Seelbach, the first Director of the CRSA and co-author of the CRSA legislation, invested his life to improve mental health care to Illinois children and families. Through diplomacy and vision, he became the architect behind significant social system changes. His leadership through unconditional positive regard for families, his staff, and colleagues confirmed his intrinsic integrity and left a pervasive legacy of service excellence.

It is in honor of Gary's lifelong investment in excellence, that CRSA board members and staff voted to give the Gary Seelbach Award to Ms. Maureen Haugh-Stover. Ms. Haugh-Stover exemplifies service excellence and unconditional positive regard for youth, families and colleagues. Ms. Haugh-Stover graciously accepted the award from her colleagues. Ms. Haugh-Stover also announced that February was her last CRSA board meeting as she was leaving DDD for another position with another state agency. She thanked everyone and acknowledged the good work that CRSA does for Illinois youth.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

The CRSA board Approved policy, meeting on off months and reviewed the discussions from the Executive meeting.

B. Executive Director's Evaluation

Mr. Matt George mentioned that the Directors evaluation was finished which reflected a confirmed confidence in Director Smith's leadership. Legislative Designee Ms. Carie Johnstone, Legislative Designee Mr. Matt George, ISBE representative Ms. Abbey Storey and Gubernatorial Appointee and Chairperson Dr. Bob Bloom were this year's evaluators.

X. AGENCY REPORTS

Department of Children and Family Services: Ms. Alicia Ozier reported that Covid vaccines for youth moving in and out of facilities is important. She states that DCFS priority is prevention, testing, and vaccines. Ms. Ozier also stated that psychiatric hospitals are deflecting DCFS youth from receiving access. Comments from other board members indicates this is not just an issue with DCFS involved youth. Ms. Ozier suggested a CRSA round table on this topic. Follow up to be on agenda for next board meeting.

DHS, Division of Mental Health: Dr. Constance Williams reported (waiting on email)

Illinois State Board of Education: Ms. Abbey Storey reported:

COVID Pandemic

- A light blue banner has been added to the top of the ISBE homepage at www.isbe.net, which directly links to <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccine-plan-overview>. This page contains up to date information on the Coronavirus vaccine plan, including phase information, links to locations, data, and sign-up information which all schools are encouraged to view. Schools are also recommended to contact their local public health department to discuss vaccination, as distribution and timeline is dependent upon county location, with the knowledge that individuals with direct contact with students are prioritized for receipt of vaccination in Phase 1B.
- All ISBE Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates and Resources are available at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/covid19.aspx>
- Submission to ISBE of any questions or concerns regarding the pandemic are requested to be sent to the established inbox of COVID19@isbe.net

Projects

- ISBE was awarded the five-year IDEA Part D State Personnel Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs in September 2020 for the Elevating Special Educators (ESE) Project.
- The primary objectives of the ESE project are 1) to enhance the effectiveness of staff who support students with disabilities through research-based professional development, 2) to deliver mentoring to increase the retention of early career special education teachers to address the Illinois special education teacher shortage, 3) to increase the engagement of families as partners in the educational process and decision making, and 4) to deliver

- professional learning and technical assistance to build seamless and sustainable delivery systems for specialized populations of learners.
- The ESE project will implement a statewide system of professional learning designed to support intensified and individualized services to address the unique needs presented by each district. All districts will have the opportunity to engage in professional learning through face-to-face; virtual; or online learning opportunities, including training, networking, and professional learning communities accessible through a global first tier of support in a three-tiered system that will be created. Defined targets will be set during the planning year. Some districts with moderate special education teacher turnover or a high percentage of provisional licenses, low growth, or achievement gaps in specialized populations of learners and average performance on indicators on the State Performance Plan (SPP) will also receive more intense services at the building level through coaching, mentor visits, and technical assistance as a second tier of support, in addition to all supports offered in the first tier. A few districts with high special education turnover or a high percentage of provisional licenses, extremely low growth, or significant achievement gaps in specialized populations of learners, and poor performance on SPP indicators will receive further services through increased frequency and duration of coaching, mentoring visits, and technical assistance at the district and building levels as a third tier of support, in addition to all supports offered in the first two tiers.
 - The Illinois State Board of Education has authorized the State Superintendent to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Regional Office of Education 9 to fund the ESE project for FY2021-25, pending continued grant appropriations.

Staffing

- New Hire- Kristin Lessen, Principal Consultant-Grants, Special Education Services
- New Hire- Rocio Casillas, Principal Consultant-CPS Public Inquiry Monitor, Special Education Services

Department of Juvenile Justice: Mark Smith reported DJJ has received vaccines so those are being distributed to staff on a voluntary basis this past week. DJJ continues to move toward the 21st Transformation Model of scaling down large institutions and creating smaller facilities that are more therapeutic and closer to home. A closer to home model encourages more parental engagement including engagement in community supports that a youth may be receiving when they are released. Recently DJJ has acquired the former Lincoln Development Center in Lincoln, Illinois and will be a new Illinois Youth Center in central Illinois. This will be extremely beneficial for youth committed to DJJ from the central part of the state and continue to have engagement with their family and services providers in that area.

DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services: Ms. Michelle Scott-Terven reported DRS staff are working primarily remotely while serving our Vocational Rehabilitation and Home Services customers, and continue to accept new referrals. We are keeping an eye on HB2170, the Education Omnibus Bill, which makes numerous changes to the School Code and requires a feasibility study regarding the consolidation of all workforce development programs funded by the federal

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and conducted by the State of Illinois into one solitary agency to create greater access to job training for underserved populations.

DHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities: Ms. Maureen Haugh-Stover reported she has left DHS and joined HFS as the Olmstead Coordinator. Kathy Ward stated the Director wants to wait to appoint another designee to the CRSA board until after the hiring process is completed to replace Ms. Haugh-Stover. Ms. Ward announced that ISC agencies will work remotely and visit by phone until a vaccine is readily available for these workers.

Office of Attorney General: Ms. Judith Levitan: no report

Healthcare and Family Services: Mr. Robert B. Williams: no report

DHS, Division of Family and Community Services: Ms. Julie Stremlau: no report

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

XII. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Neal Takiff discussed the importance of increasing Illinois's treatment capacity for youth in need of therapeutic residential treatment. Several youths may have public funding yet no approved facility accept them in a timely manner. Mr. Takiff suggested creating an option for agencies to use "one off agreements, aka single case agreements" to address treat these youths in a more responsible and timely manner. He stated he will work with Director Smith to suggest some language for the board to consider at the next CRSA board meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Dr. Cesar Madrigal moved and Mr. Mark Smith seconded that the Authority meeting be adjourned at 11:20 am. The motion carried unanimously.*